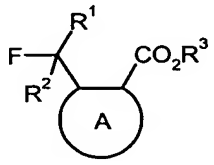
**Claims:**

1. Process for preparing fluoromethyl-substituted heterocycles of the formula (I)



(I)

in which

$R^1$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

$R^2$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

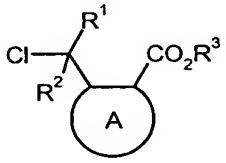
$R^3$ is $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl,

A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group of pyrazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 1-position, thiazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 2-position and oxazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 2-position,

$R^4$ is $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylthio-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl or phenyl,

characterized in that

a) chloromethyl-substituted heterocycles of the formula (II)



(II)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and A are each as defined above

are converted in the presence of a fluorinating agent and optionally in the presence of a diluent.

2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the starting materials used are chloromethyl-substituted heterocycles of the formula (II),

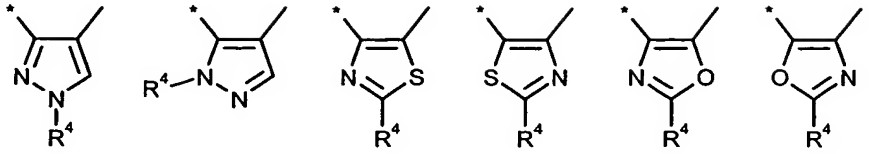
in which

$R^1$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

$R^2$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

$R^3$ is $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl,

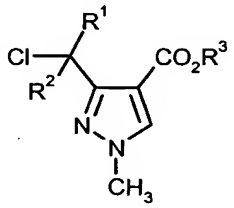
A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group of



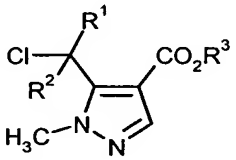
where in each case the bond marked by * is joined to the -CClR$^1$R$^2$ group and the other bond to the ester group,

$R^4$ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or phenyl.

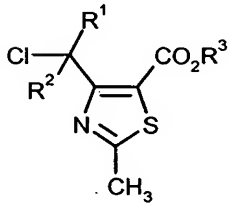
3. Process according to one of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the starting materials used are one of the following compounds of the formulae (II-a), (II-b), (II-c) or (II-d)



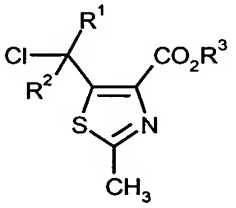
(II-a)



(II-b)



(II-c)



(II-d)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ in each case are as defined in Claim 1 or 2.

4. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that $R^1$ is chlorine, $R^2$ is hydrogen and $R^3$ is methyl or ethyl.

5. Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the fluorinating agent used is an alkali metal fluoride, cobalt(III) fluoride, halogen fluoride, antimony fluoride, molybdenum fluoride, hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen fluoride/pyridine mixture, tertiary ammonium hydrofluoride or trialkylamine hydrofluoride of the general formula n HF / N(Alk)$_3$ (where n is 1, 2 or 3, and Alk is $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl).

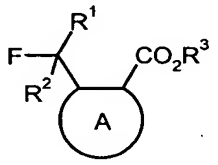
6. Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the fluorinating agent used is 3 HF / N(Et)$_3$ (Franz reagent), 3 HF / N(n-Bu)$_3$ or HF/pyridine (Olah's reagent).

7. Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the fluorinating agent used is 3 HF / $N(Et)_3$ (Franz reagent) or 3 HF / $N(n\text{-}Bu)_3$.

8. Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it is carried out at temperatures of 80°C to 170°C.

9. Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that it is carried out at temperatures of 120°C to 150°C.

10. Use of fluoromethyl-substituted heterocycles of the formula (I)



(I)

in which

$R^1$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

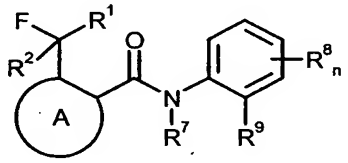
$R^2$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

$R^3$ is $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl,

A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group of pyrazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 1-position, thiazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 2-position and oxazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 2-position,

$R^4$ is $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylthio-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl or phenyl

to prepare fungicidally active carboxamides of the formula (VII)



(VII)

in which

$R^1$, $R^2$ and A are each as defined above,

$R^7$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulphinyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulphonyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkylthio, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkylsulphinyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkylsulphonyl, halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms; formyl, formyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_3$-alkoxy)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl; halo-($C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl, halo-($C_1$-$C_3$-alkoxy)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl having in each case 1 to 13 fluorine, chlorine and/or

bromine atoms; ($C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl)carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy)carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl)carbonyl, ($C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl)carbonyl; ($C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkyl)carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkoxy)carbonyl, (halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl)carbonyl, ($C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl)carbonyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms; or $-C(=O)C(=O)R^{10}$, $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$ or $-CH_2NR^{13}R^{14}$,

$R^8$ is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, isopropyl, methylthio or trifluoromethyl,

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1 or 2,

$R^9$ is optionally mono- to pentasubstituted phenyl having identical or different substituents which are selected from halogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_2$-haloalkyl or $C_1$-$C_2$-haloalkoxy having in each case 1 to 5 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms, hydroxyimino-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxyimino-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkoxyimino-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, or, in the case of two adjacent substituents, from difluoromethylenedioxy or tetrafluoroethylenedioxy,

or is $C_3$-$C_{10}$-cycloalkyl or $C_3$-$C_{10}$-bicycloalkyl which is in each case optionally mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen and/or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl,

or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{20}$-alkyl, or $C_1$-$C_{20}$-alkyl which is mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine and/or $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl, in which case the cycloalkyl moiety may itself optionally be mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl and/or $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkyl,

or is $C_2$-$C_{20}$-alkenyl or $C_2$-$C_{20}$-alkynyl which is in each case optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine and/or $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl in which case the cycloalkyl moiety may itself optionally be mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl and/or $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkyl,

$R^{10}$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkoxy, halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms,

$R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ are each independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_8$-haloalkyl, halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms,

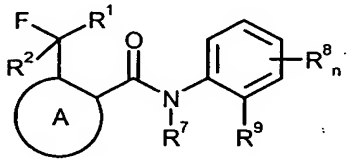
$R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ are also, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a saturated heterocycle having 5 to 8 ring atoms which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, and the heterocycle may contain 1 or 2 further, nonadjacent heteroatoms from the group of oxygen, sulphur and $NR^{15}$,

$R^{13}$ and $R^{14}$ are each independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_8$-haloalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms,

$R^{13}$ and $R^{14}$ are also, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a saturated heterocycle having 5 to 8 ring atoms which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, and the heterocycle may contain 1 or 2 further, nonadjacent heteroatoms from the group of oxygen, sulphur and $NR^{15}$,

$R^{15}$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl.

11. Process for preparing fungicidally active carboxamides of the formula (VII)



(VII)

in which

$R^1$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

$R^2$ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine,

A is a 5-membered heterocycle selected from the group of pyrazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 1-position, thiazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 2-position and oxazole which is substituted by $R^4$ in the 2-position,

$R^4$ is $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkylthio-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl or phenyl,

$R^7$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulphinyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulphonyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkylthio, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkylsulphinyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkylsulphonyl, halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms; formyl, formyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_3$-alkoxy)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl; halo-($C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl, halo-($C_1$-$C_3$-alkoxy)carbonyl-$C_1$-$C_3$-alkyl having in each case 1 to 13 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms; ($C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl)carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy)carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl)carbonyl, ($C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl)carbonyl; ($C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkyl)carbonyl, ($C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkoxy)carbonyl, (halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl)carbonyl, ($C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl)carbonyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms; or $-C(=O)C(=O)R^{10}$, $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$ or $-CH_2NR^{13}R^{14}$,

$R^8$ is hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, methyl, isopropyl, methylthio or trifluoromethyl,

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, preferably 1 or 2,

$R^9$ is optionally mono- to pentasubstituted phenyl having identical or different substituents which are selected from halogen, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_2$-haloalkyl or $C_1$-$C_2$-haloalkoxy having in each case 1 to 5 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms, hydroxyimino-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxyimino-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkoxyimino-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, or, in the case of two adjacent substituents, from difluoromethylenedioxy or tetrafluoroethylenedioxy,

or is $C_3$-$C_{10}$-cycloalkyl or $C_3$-$C_{10}$-bicycloalkyl which is in each case optionally mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen and/or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, or unsubstituted $C_2$-$C_{20}$-alkyl, or $C_1$-$C_{20}$-alkyl which is mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine and/or $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl, in which case the cycloalkyl moiety may itself optionally be mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl and/or $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkyl,

or is $C_2$-$C_{20}$-alkenyl or $C_2$-$C_{20}$-alkynyl which is in each case optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine and/or $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl in which case the cycloalkyl moiety may itself optionally be mono- to tetrasubstituted, identically or differently, by fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl and/or $C_1$-$C_4$-haloalkyl,

$R^{10}$ is hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkoxy, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkyl, $C_1$-$C_6$-haloalkoxy, halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms,

$R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ are each independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_8$-haloalkyl, halo-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms,

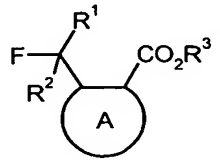
$R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ are also, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a saturated heterocycle having 5 to 8 ring atoms which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, and the heterocycle may contain 1 or 2 further, nonadjacent heteroatoms from the group of oxygen, sulphur and $NR^{15}$,

$R^{13}$ and $R^{14}$ are each independently hydrogen, $C_1$-$C_8$-alkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-cycloalkyl; $C_1$-$C_8$-haloalkyl, $C_3$-$C_8$-halocycloalkyl having in each case 1 to 9 fluorine, chlorine and/or bromine atoms,

$R^{13}$ and $R^{14}$ are also, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, a saturated heterocycle having 5 to 8 ring atoms which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted, identically or differently, by halogen or $C_1$-$C_4$-alkyl, and the heterocycle may contain 1 or 2 further, nonadjacent heteroatoms from the group of oxygen, sulphur and $NR^{15}$,

$R^{15}$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl,

characterized in that fluoromethyl-substituted heterocycles of the formula (I)



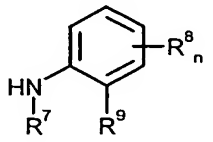
(I)

in which

$R^1$, $R^2$ and A are each as defined above,

$R^3$ is $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl

are hydrolyzed in the presence of a base and optionally in the presence of a diluent, and the free acid is subsequently either converted to the corresponding acid chloride in the presence of a chlorinating agent and optionally in the presence of a diluent or the free acid is reacted directly with aniline derivatives of the formula (VIII)



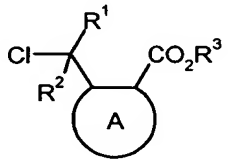
(VIII)

in which $R^7$, $R^8$, n and $R^9$ are each as defined above

optionally in the presence of a catalyst, optionally in the presence of a condensing agent, optionally in the presence of an acid binding agent and optionally in the presence of a diluent.

12. Process according to Claim 11, characterized in that the compounds of the formula (I) are obtained by the process according to Claim 1.

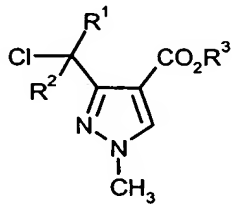
13. Chloromethyl-substituted heterocycles of the formula (II)



(II)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and A are each as defined in Claim 1.

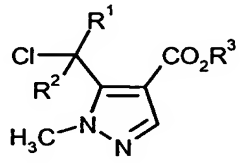
14. Compounds of the formula (II-a)



(II-a)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ are each as defined in Claim 1.

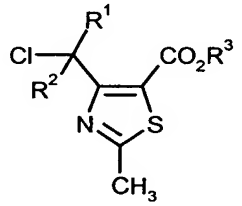
15. Compounds of the formula (II-b)



(II-b)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ are each as defined in Claim 1.

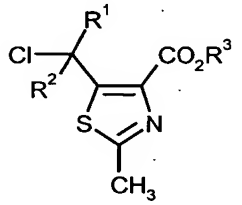
16. Compounds of the formula (II-c)



(II-c)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ are each as defined in Claim 1.

17. Compounds of the formula (II-d)



(II-d)

in which $R^1$, $R^2$ and $R^3$ are each as defined in Claim 1.